

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph on Page 36, line 5 to line 13, of the Specification with the following paragraph:

In addition, state-of-tracking decision section 13 is a specified example of a state-of-tracking deciding means adapted to decide the ~~sate-state~~ state of tracking with each object or object zone wherein the state of tracking represents a positional relation relative to another object. Correspondence decision section 16 is a specific example of the correspondence establishing means, which is adapted to establish the correspondence between an object and an object zone on the basis of the degree of similarity between a synthesized characteristic quantity and the characteristic quantity of the object zone, which is the zone containing the objects, and also correspondence deciding means, which is adapted to supply the currently correspondence information that has been determined.

Please replace the present Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended

Abstract of the Disclosure:

Object-zone extraction section ~~12~~ receives image information through image input terminal ~~11~~ and extracts object zones from the received image information. Characteristic-quantity generation section ~~14~~ generates the characteristic quantities of objects and the characteristic quantities of object zones. Characteristic-quantity synthesis section ~~15~~ synthesizes the characteristic quantities of a plurality of objects to generate a synthesized characteristic quantity. Correspondence establishment section ~~17~~ calculates the degrees of similarity between the characteristic quantities of object zones and synthesized characteristic quantities, and finds an optimum correspondence between the objects and object zone, on the basis of calculated degrees of similarity.